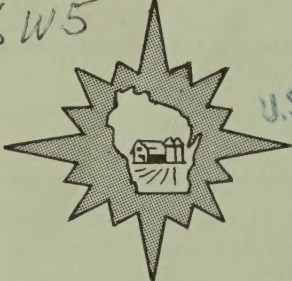


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

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Cream of the News

Milk production in Wisconsin during November fell below a year ago after being higher in August through October.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin assembly points declined from October to November.

The Nation's cheese and butter production during October remained above a year earlier with cheese up 7 percent and butter 12 percent.

Lower prices for livestock, eggs, and some crops resulted in a decline of 1 percent in the index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products from October to November.

Red meat production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during October was up 17 percent from the previous year.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in November are expected to show an increase for the fourth consecutive month but will still be down from a year ago.

Good fall weather enabled Wisconsin farmers to harvest all of their crops by December 1 except some corn for grain which was too high in moisture content.

Prices of good grade feeder steers at the Kansas City market declined in November for the tenth consecutive month and averaged only half of the price a year ago.

All hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1 totaled 1,400,000 down 11 percent from that date in 1973.

Weekly estimates of American cheese production in Wisconsin and the Nation during November indicate that output will be under a year earlier for the first time in several months.

Hog and beef prices at the St. Paul market declined from October to November.

Cold storage stocks of dairy products in the Nation at the end of November remained above last year. Meat stocks showed no change.

NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION FALLS BELOW YEAR AGO

Production of milk on Wisconsin farms during November totaled 1,296 million pounds, a decline of about 1 percent from a year ago. Milk production had been above the previous year from August through October. November's milk output was down seasonally 8 percent from October compared with a drop of 5 percent for that period in 1973. Production per cow in November averaged 725 pounds, the same as a year earlier but cow numbers were down by 12,000. Wisconsin's milk production from January through November was 1 percent under the comparable months last year.

The Nation's milk production during November was up slightly from a year ago but shows a decline of about 1 percent for the first 11 months of this year. The November milk-feed price ratio improved 3 percent from October but lagged behind a year earlier by 25 percent.

Milk Production

Selected States	November 1973	November 1974	Jan.-Nov. 1974	Change from last year	
				Nov.	Jan.-Nov.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,304	1,296	16,870	- 1	- 1
Minnesota . . .	654	659	8,652	+ 1	n. c.
Iowa	279	260	3,375	- 7	- 10
New York	711	728	9,034	+ 2	+ 1
Pennsylvania . .	523	529	6,237	+ 1	+ 1
California	821	837	9,788	+ 2	+ 3
Other states . . .	4,317	4,335	51,913	n. c.	- 1
United States . .	8,609	8,644	105,869	n. c.	- 1

MILK PRICES EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UPWARD

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in November are expected to average \$7.62 a hundredweight. This would be 7 cents higher than in October and the fourth consecutive month that milk prices have increased. However, milk prices are still more than a dollar below the peak reached in March 1974.

Milk prices in October averaged \$7.55 a hundredweight, a gain of 31 cents from the previous month but 45 cents

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below October 1973. Milkfat content for October averaged 3.88 percent compared with 3.81 percent a year ago.

Grade A milk producers received an average of \$7.70 a hundredweight in October, an increase of 30 cents from September but 43 cents under last year. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$7.32 a hundredweight for October, was 31 cents above a month earlier but 49 cents below October 1973. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 38 cents in October compared with 32 cents a year ago.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	September 1974		October price per cwt.			Nov. 1974 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1973	1974	74/73 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.74	7.24	8.00	7.55	- 6	7.62
Minnesota	3.62	6.80	7.74	6.95	- 10	7.04
Iowa	3.63	7.02	7.96	7.25	- 9	7.45
New York	3.61	8.35	8.77	8.60	- 2	8.65
California	3.54	8.35	7.12	8.60	+ 21	8.90
United States	3.64	8.00	8.32	8.26	- 1	8.42
Wis. utilization						
Market milk	3.74	7.40	8.13	7.70	- 5	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.75	7.01	7.81	7.32	- 6	xxx
Creameries	3.74	6.98	7.76	7.25	- 7	xxx
Cheese factories	3.75	7.01	7.82	7.33	- 6	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.75	6.98	7.77	7.25	- 7	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	October 1973	Sept. 1974	October 1974 1/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	7.37	6.78	6.81	- 8
Market milk	7.47	6.93	6.93	- 7
Manufacturing milk	7.17	6.54	6.62	- 8
Creameries	7.14	6.53	6.57	- 8
American cheese plants	7.18	6.52	6.60	- 8
Varied products plants	7.14	6.51	6.56	- 8
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone	7.62	7.16	7.30	- 4

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

CHEESE AND BUTTER OUTPUT REMAINS ABOVE A YEAR AGO

The Nation's cheese and butter production during October remained higher than a year earlier. Total cheese output for October was up 7 percent and butter production gained 12 percent from October 1973. Increases in cheese production by varieties were American 2 percent, Italian 8 percent, Swiss 40 percent, Brick and Muenster 5 percent, and all other cheese 19 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	October 1973	October 1974	Jan.-Oct. 1974	Change from last year	
				October	Jan.-Oct.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	12,645	14,100	161,610	+ 12	+ 6
Minnesota	13,947	14,140	192,820	+ 1	+ 2
Iowa	3,273	2,800	35,510	- 14	- 34
Other states	33,534	39,744	404,583	+ 19	+ 3
United States	63,399	70,784	794,523	+ 12	+ 1
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	51,849	52,000	654,720	n. c.	+ 7
Minnesota	20,154	19,355	222,145	- 4	+ 12
Missouri	5,017	3,710	68,005	- 26	+ 10
Other states	45,221	50,068	647,097	+ 11	+ 21
United States	122,241	125,133	1,591,967	+ 2	+ 13
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	10,384	14,530	154,917	+ 40	+ 10
Brick and Muenster . .	5,226	5,474	58,591	+ 5	+ 1
Italian	46,402	49,979	494,851	+ 8	+ 6
All other	18,094	21,523	173,714	+ 19	+ 4
Total	80,106	91,506	882,073	+ 14	+ 6
ALL CHEESE					
United States	202,347	216,639	2,474,040	+ 7	+ 10
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	61,149	56,400	579,185	- 8	- 12
Creamed 2/	76,200	70,681	731,428	- 7	- 11
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,340	1,600	14,795	+ 19	+ 7
Illinois	3,480	3,750	39,830	+ 8	+ 2
Iowa	682	760	7,495	+ 11	+ 6
Michigan	2,954	2,500	31,405	- 15	+ 4
Minnesota	2,526	2,100	22,430	- 17	- 16
Other states	51,909	52,615	557,998	+ 1	+ 1
United States	62,891	63,325	673,953	+ 1	+ 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

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Wisconsin dairy plants made 52 million pounds of American cheese during October, about the same as a year ago. Although production in Minnesota was down 4 percent and Missouri's output declined 26 percent, all other states manufactured 11 percent more American cheese in October than a year earlier.

Creameries in Wisconsin churned 14 million pounds of butter in October, up 12 percent from the previous year. Iowa's butter production during October was down 14 percent from last year but Minnesota showed a gain of 1 percent and all other states increased 19 percent.

Production of cottage cheese curd in the Nation during October was down 8 percent from a year ago and creamed cottage cheese output declined 7 percent. The Nation's ice cream production for October was 1 percent more than in October 1973.

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES LOWER

Wholesale prices of dairy products declined from October to November. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 77.77 cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets during November. This was a decline of almost $\frac{3}{4}$ cent from the previous month and $8\frac{1}{2}$ cents under last year.

Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 101.63 cents a pound for November. Swiss cheese prices were down more than $\frac{1}{2}$ cent from October but 8 cents above November 1973.

The 92-score butter price at the New York market averaged 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound in November, slightly below a month earlier and $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents less than a year ago.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	November 1973	October 1974	November 1974 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	77.04¢	70.63¢	70.50¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . .	86.33¢	78.48¢	77.77¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	93.50¢	102.25¢	101.63¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. cans, range	\$10.65-10.98	\$11.70-12.50	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	51.04¢	56.91¢	56.94¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS LOWER AS OF MID-NOVEMBER

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for farm products sold during the month ending in mid-November were below the previous month for livestock, eggs, corn, oats and soybeans. Increases for milk, wheat, and hay were not enough to offset the declines for other commodities. As a result, the index of prices received declined 1 percent from October to November and was 11 percent under November 15, 1973.

Steers and heifers averaged \$30.00 a hundredweight as of mid-November, down 50 cents from the previous month and the lowest since January 1972. Slaughter cows averaged only \$16.90 a hundredweight as of November 15, a decline of \$2.10 from October and the lowest since January 1969.

Prices of milk cows for herd replacements took another sharp dip in November. At \$455.00 each as of mid-Novem-

ber, milk cows were \$45.00 under a month earlier and \$160.00 below last year. Calves averaged \$31.60 a hundredweight for November, down \$3.30 from October and \$24.80 lower than on November 15, 1973.

Hogs declined 70 cents from October to November. At \$36.00 a hundredweight in November, hogs were \$3.80 under a year ago.

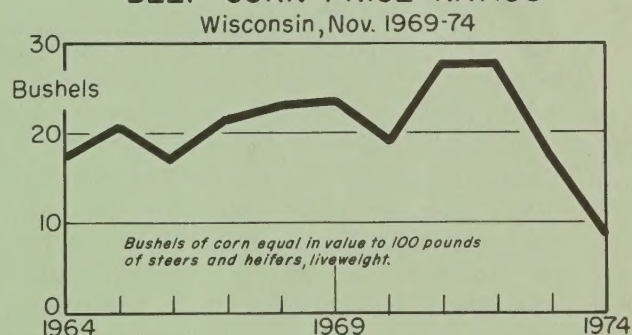
Sheep and lambs both dropped 50 cents from October to November. Sheep averaged \$5.10 a hundredweight in mid-November, less than half of a year earlier. Lambs at \$31.00 a hundredweight for November were \$2.20 above last year.

Eggs dropped about a half cent from October to November and at nearly 49 cents a dozen were 9 cents below a year ago. Turkeys remained unchanged at 31 cents a pound liveweight but were 7 cents less than on November 15, 1973.

Corn prices declined for the first time in seven months. At \$3.40 a bushel as of mid-November, corn was 18 cents below a month earlier but \$1.27 greater than last year. Oats dropped 3 cents a bushel from October to November but at \$1.56 a bushel was 36 cents above a year ago. Soybeans averaged \$7.41 a bushel on November 15, down 69 cents from October but \$2.37 higher than November 1973.

Wheat increased 6 cents a bushel from October to November. At \$4.41 a bushel, wheat was 29 cents above mid-November last year. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$32.00 a ton in November, up 50 cents from the previous month and \$1.50 more than a year earlier.

BEEF-CORN PRICE RATIOS



BUTTER AND CHEESE STOCKS REMAIN UP

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of November were 10 percent above a year earlier while cheese stocks were up 41 percent. There were 60 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of November, up from last year but down sharply from two years ago. Government stocks of butter amounted to over 3 million pounds compared with 2 million pounds on November 30, 1973.

Total cheese in cold storage in the Nation was 501 million pounds at the end of November. Stocks of American cheese amounted to 429 million pounds, up 48 percent from a year earlier. Stocks of Swiss cheese in cold storage on November 30 gained 4 percent from last year, while supplies of all other cheese increased 10 percent from that date in 1973. Government stocks of cheese totaled a little over 1 million pounds, but was more than double the level of a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Nov. 15, 1972	Nov. 15, 1973	Oct. 15, 1974	Nov. 15, 1974
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	480.00	615.00	500.00	455.00
Steers and heifers .	Cwt.	32.20	36.60	30.50	30.00
Cows	Cwt.	25.00	30.20	19.00	16.90
Calves	Cwt.	47.50	56.40	34.90	31.60
Hogs	Cwt.	26.60	39.80	36.70	36.00
Sheep	Cwt.	6.30	10.50	5.60	5.10
Lambs	Cwt.	26.30	28.80	31.50	31.00
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.095	.215	.105	.105
Turkeys	Lb.	.240	.380	.310	.310
Eggs	Doz.	.330	.580	.492	.488
Corn	Bu.	1.16	2.13	3.58	3.40
Wheat	Bu.	1.79	4.12	4.35	4.41
Oats	Bu.	.78	1.20	1.59	1.56
Soybeans	Bu.	3.30	5.04	8.10	7.41
Alfalfa hay, baled .	Ton	31.00	30.50	31.50	32.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1972	Nov. 30, 1973	Nov. 30, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	132,517	54,266	59,729	+ 10
Cheese, American	291,670	289,958	428,630	+ 48
Cheese, Swiss	7,784	13,471	13,983	+ 4
Cheese, all other	54,139	52,604	58,058	+ 10
Cheese, total	353,593	356,033	500,671	+ 41
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	5,343	2,018	3,425	+ 70
Cheese, American	187,580	172,352	242,187	+ 41
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	119,795	25,755	17,545	- 32
Cheese, American	200	464	1,204	+ 159

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

Commodity	October 31, 1972	October 31, 1973	October 31, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	4,823	7,592	9,713	+ 28
Dried skim milk	48,941	80,390	148,774	+ 85
Dried buttermilk	3,130	4,169	7,035	+ 69
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/.	138,803	89,367	124,084	+ 39

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION
FALLS BELOW YEAR EARLIER

Based on weekly estimates for November, production of American cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation will be lower than a year earlier for the first time in several months. The Nation's output of American cheese in November could be down 7 percent from last year and the first month since September 1973 that production was below the previous year. However, American cheese production in the Nation from January through October was up 13 percent from that period in 1973. Wisconsin dairy plants made 7 percent more American cheese during January through October compared with a year earlier. The State's output of American cheese in November will be down from a year ago for the first time since October 1973.

According to weekly estimates, butter production in the Nation during November was up 10 percent from last

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
October . . .	70,784	+ 12	+ 12	125,133	+ 2	n. c.
Jan.-Oct. . .	794,523	+ 1	+ 6	1,591,967	+ 13	+ 7
Weeks ending						
Nov. 7 . . .	15,750	+ 17	+ 7	26,200	- 7	- 13
Nov. 14 . . .	15,700	+ 12	n. c.	27,120	- 3	- 6
Nov. 21 . . .	15,300	+ 20	+ 19	27,000	- 3	- 10
Nov. 28 . . .	15,200	- 6	- 7	26,900	- 12	- 8
Total	61,950	+ 10	xxx	107,220	- 7	xxx

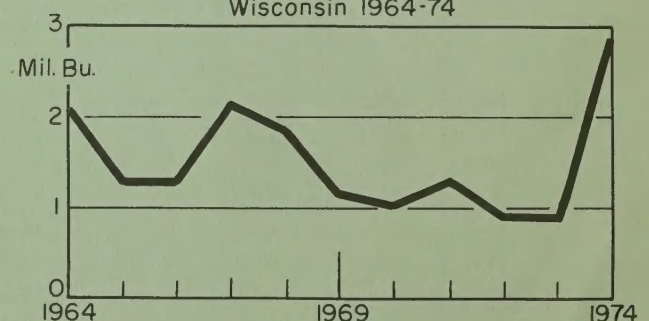
year. The National production of butter from January through October was 1 percent above the corresponding period in 1973. Wisconsin creameries churned 6 percent more butter in the first 10 months of 1974 than a year earlier and output is expected to continue higher for November.

DECEMBER CROP REPORT

Good fall weather enabled Wisconsin farmers to harvest all of their crops by December 1 except corn for grain which was too high in moisture content. About 15 percent of the corn for grain was still unharvested by December 1 and some of that may remain in the fields over winter. Moisture content of corn for grain was the highest this year since 1965. Adverse weather conditions during the growing season substantially reduced the quantity of corn for grain and also resulted in poorer quality. As of December 1, the production of corn for grain in 1974 was estimated at 157 million bushels, down 10 percent from 1973 despite an increase of 9 percent in all corn acreage planted. The yield per acre of corn for grain was estimated at 75 bushels, a decline of 8 bushels from 1973 and the poorest yield in 10 years.

Wisconsin farmers were able to make good progress on plowing and other field work this fall except on the corn ground that was still not harvested. After a dry and cold fall, some rains were received in November to improve soil moisture conditions which were reported as 20 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus going into winter. Subsoil moisture reserves are low in many areas due to below normal rainfall, especially in July and September which were very dry. Rainfall during the growing season averaged 7 percent below normal. Temperatures also averaged below normal in all months except July which was hot. Growing degree days as measured by the modified base 50 method averaged 11 percent below normal during April 1 to September 22.

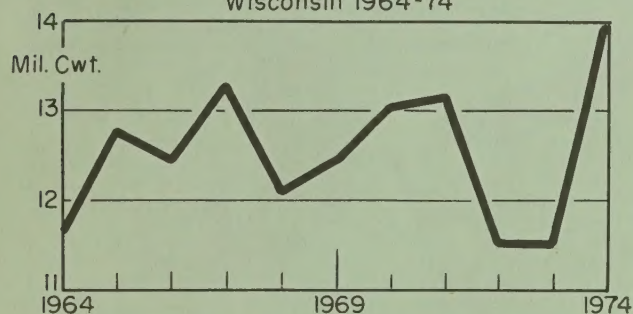
The 1974 crop year had a growing season that was delayed at the beginning by cold, wet conditions and cut short at the end by unusually early September frosts. Harvesting weather was good but some poor growing weather reduced the size of the harvest for certain crops. Frost and dry weather lowered production of corn for grain, soybeans, tobacco, second crop hay, peas, sweet corn, snap beans, and beets. Some bright spots during the 1974 crop year were small grains, first crop hay, fruits, and potatoes.

WHEAT PRODUCTION
Wisconsin 1964-74

Production of small grains in 1974 was the best in three years. Seeding conditions for winter wheat and rye were favorable in the fall of 1973. Acreage planted was in-

creased from a year earlier, especially for winter wheat which more than tripled. Production of all wheat in 1974 totaled 2,853,000 bushels, the largest wheat crop since 1948. Wisconsin farmers planted 61,000 acres of winter wheat, the most since 1938. A total of 22,000 acres of spring wheat were seeded in 1974, the largest spring wheat acreage in 13 years. The straw crop for wheat was heavy. A more normal oats crop was harvested in 1974 after two disappointing seasons. Oats yielded 61 bushels per acre, an increase of 20 bushels from the poor 1973 crop. The harvested oat acreage of 1,400,000 acres was only 30,000 more than in 1973 but the production of 85,400,000 bushels was up 52 percent. Straw supplies were adequate after two deficit seasons. Barley and rye also yielded well in 1974 and production increased.

POTATO PRODUCTION
Wisconsin 1964-74



The 1974 potato crop in Wisconsin was estimated at 14 million hundredweight, up 22 percent from 1973 and the largest crop in 40 years. Harvested acreage at 50,000 was 3,000 more than in 1973 and the record yield of 280 hundredweight per acre for 1974 was up 35 hundredweight from a year earlier.

HOG INVENTORY LOWER

Wisconsin farmers had 1,400,000 hogs and pigs on farms December 1, 1974, a decline of 11 percent from a year earlier. Breeding stock totaled 228,000, down 10 percent from December 1 last year while market hogs at 1,172,000 were 11 percent less than a year ago.

A total of 85,000 sows farrowed in Wisconsin during the past quarter. This was 10,000 sows fewer than farrowed in September-November 1973. The pig crop of 629,000 for the past quarter was down 74,000 from the comparable quarter a year earlier. Litter rates averaged 7.40 pigs per litter, the same as in September-November last year.

Wisconsin farmers intend to farrow 70,000 sows during December 1974 through February 1975. This would be 4,000 less than farrowed in that quarter a year earlier. Farrowings during March through May are expected to total 95,000 sows, down 11,000 from that quarter in 1974.

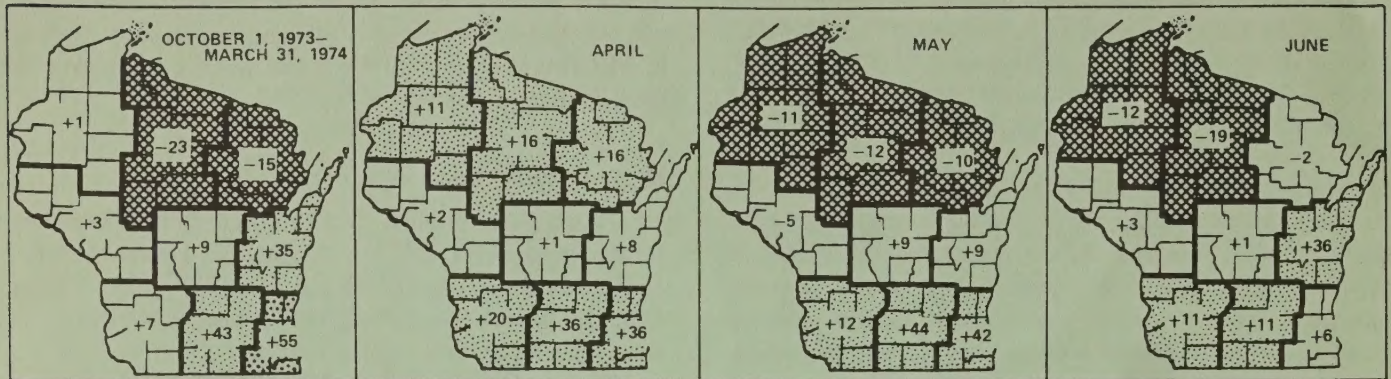
A more detailed report on the December 1 hog and pig inventory can be obtained by writing to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

Crop Summary of Wisconsin for December 1, 1974*

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1972	1973	1974 (preliminary)	1972	1973	1974 (preliminary)		1972	1973	1974 (preliminary)
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain	2,143	2,090	2,090	95.0	83.0	75.0	Bu.	203,585	173,470	156,750
Oats	1,350	1,370	1,400	55.0	41.0	61.0	Bu.	74,250	56,170	85,400
Barley	22	21	19	45.0	37.0	47.0	Bu.	990	777	893
Rye	10	9	10	21.0	21.0	24.0	Bu.	210	189	240
Wheat (all)	29	27	78	31.1	33.0	36.6	Bu.	901	890	2,853
Winter	20	16	57	32.0	35.0	39.0	Bu.	640	560	2,223
Spring	9	11	21	29.0	30.0	30.0	Bu.	261	330	630
Soybeans for beans	145	241	225	28.0	25.0	24.0	Bu.	4,060	6,025	5,400
Potatoes (fall)	45.5	47.0	50.0	253	245	280	Cwt.	11,530	11,515	14,000
Tobacco (all)	10.8	10.2	9.4	1,731	1,859	1,875	Lb.	18,691	18,963	17,626
Type 54	5.0	4.9	4.7	1,685	1,950	1,925	Lb.	8,425	9,555	9,048
Type 55	5.8	5.3	4.7	1,770	1,775	1,825	Lb.	10,266	9,408	8,578
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all)	3,920	3,950	3,930	2.60	2.69	2.75	Ton	10,203	10,622	10,803
Alfalfa and mixture	2,950	2,970	3,000	2.85	2.90	2.95	Ton	8,408	8,613	8,850
All other	970	980	930	1.85	2.05	2.10	Ton	1,795	2,009	1,953
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots 1/	1.7	1.4	1.5	400	370	460	Cwt.	679	518	690
Cabbage 1/	3.8	2.3	2.4	315	280	210	Cwt.	1,204	644	504
Lettuce 1/ . . . . .	.9	1.1	1.1	210	250	200	Cwt.	189	275	220
Mint for oil	4.5	5.5	8.5	30	31	41	Cwt.	135	173	350
Onions, commercial	1.5	1.4	1.3	250	280	270	Cwt.	375	392	351
For processing:										
Green lima beans	6.4	7.4	8.2	.82	.93	1.00	Ton 2/	5.3	6.9	8.2
Peas	122.2	123.2	145.7	1.34	.99	1.10	Ton 2/	163.8	122.0	160.3
Snap beans	45.5	55.7	69.0	2.67	2.47	2.20	Ton	121.5	137.6	151.8
Sweet corn	113.5	132.6	136.4	4.54	3.85	4.10	Ton	515.3	510.5	559.3
Cucumber for pickles	9.0	10.4	11.4	4.77	4.91	3.91	Ton	43.0	51.1	44.6
Beets for canning	4.5	6.6	7.8	14.00	9.18	10.40	Ton	63.0	60.6	81.1
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, commercial	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	65,000	50,000	65,000
Tart cherries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	4.6	2.4	5.4
Cranberries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	805	756	840
Strawberries	1.4	1.4	1.3	23	27	29	Cwt.	32	38	38

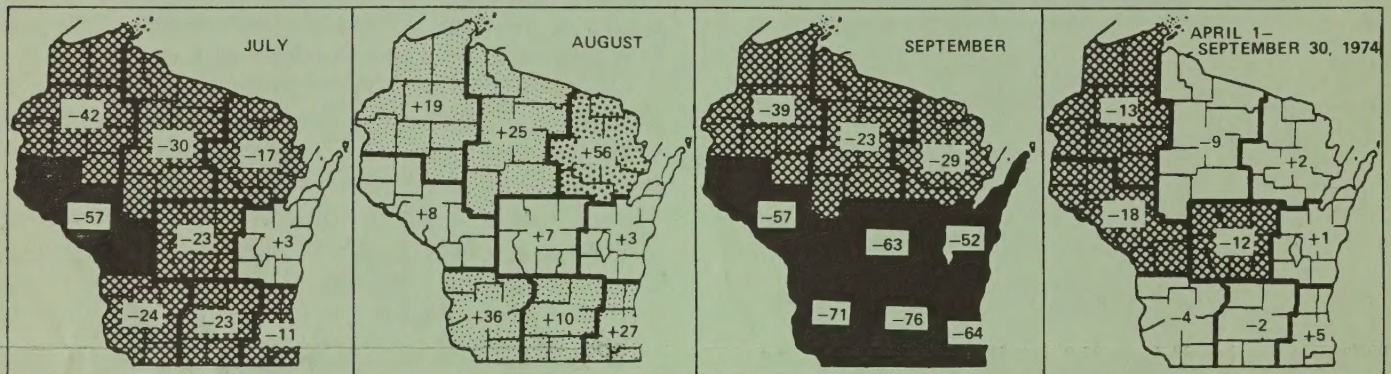
1/Summer quarter acreage. 2/Shelled. *The final crop summary for 1974 will be released on January 16, 1975.

Weather Record

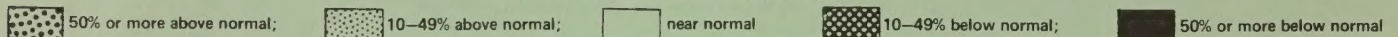


Fall and winter precipitation above normal except in north central and northeast, heaviest in south and east. November only month with below normal precipitation. Heavy snowfall in north and southeast during December. First half of January cold but typical thaw in mild second

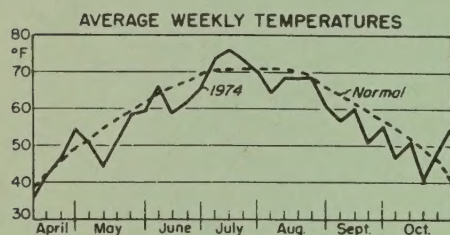
half. February brought heavy snow to southeast, nearly two feet on February 4-6 in Milwaukee area. March began mild with record highs in the 60's bringing frost out of ground at unusually early date. Sharply colder in last half of March.



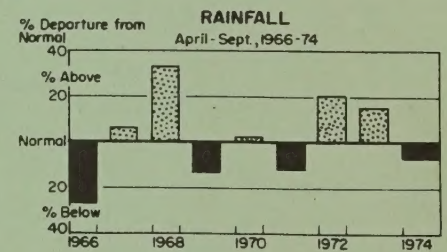
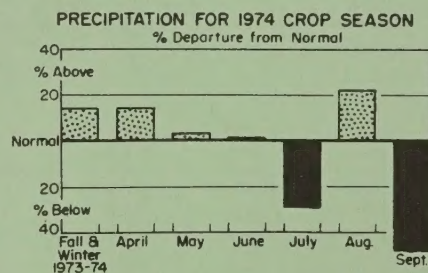
Precipitation; average by crop districts:



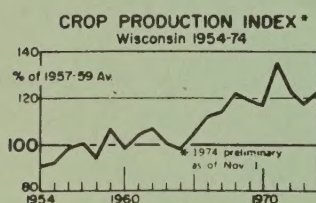
Figures show average percent above or below normal for crop districts.



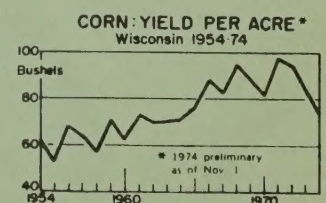
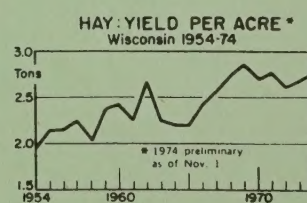
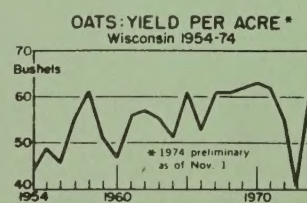
Temperatures during growing season averaged below normal in all months except July which was hot and dry. The last frost of spring occurred May 13. First killing frost of the fall came at beginning of September in west and north. A hard freeze occurred statewide on



September 21-22. Rainfall during the growing season averaged 7 percent below normal. July and September were well below normal while August was most above normal. Eastern third of State averaged slightly above normal rainfall for growing season but other areas below.



The crop production index, at 121 percent of the 1957-59 average as of November 1, was 4 points above 1973. Small grains yielded good and first crop hay was heavy. Late plantings, below normal temperatures, dry weather, and early frosts sharply reduced corn and soybeans and lowered quality. Farmers planted a record corn acreage but more than usual had to go into silage when it froze before fully mature.



Second crop hay was greatly restricted by dry weather in the west and northwest from mid-June through July. Tobacco acreage was reduced by frost damage. Apples and strawberries were good crops. Record yield established for potatoes and a record cranberry crop harvested. Home gardens were very good. Commercial vegetable crops varied, unirrigated crops yielded poor. Frost hurt sweet corn and snap beans.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during October was up 17 percent from a year earlier. Output of beef showed a gain of 13 percent, pork production increased 22 percent, and the veal supply was 29 percent more than in October 1973.

The October cattle slaughter of 129,000 head was 20,000 more than a year ago but the average liveweight of 1,084 pounds was 51 pounds lighter than October last year.

There were 311,000 hogs butchered during October, an increase of 57,000 from the previous year. Hog liveweight averaged 241 pounds, just 1 pound under October 1973.

Calf slaughter for October numbered 32,000, up almost 9,000 from a year earlier. At 137 pounds average liveweight, calves were 10 pounds lighter than in October last year. The 700 sheep and lambs killed during October were 100 more than a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	October		Change from last year	October	
	1973	1974		1973	1974
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	109.0	129.0	+ 18	123.7	139.8
United States 1/ . . .	3,152.0	3,601.4	+ 14	3,304.0	3,605.2
Calves					
Wisconsin	23.2	32.0	+ 38	3.4	4.4
United States 1/ . . .	206.1	374.6	+ 82	50.1	104.5
Hogs					
Wisconsin	254.0	311.0	+ 22	61.5	75.0
United States 1/ . . .	6,995.6	7,430.0	+ 6	1,689.7	1,801.9
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin . . . . .	.6	.7	+ 17	.057	.067
United States 1/ . . .	951.8	878.8	— 8	100.6	91.5

1/Excludes Alaska.

MEAT STOCKS NEAR LEVEL LAST YEAR

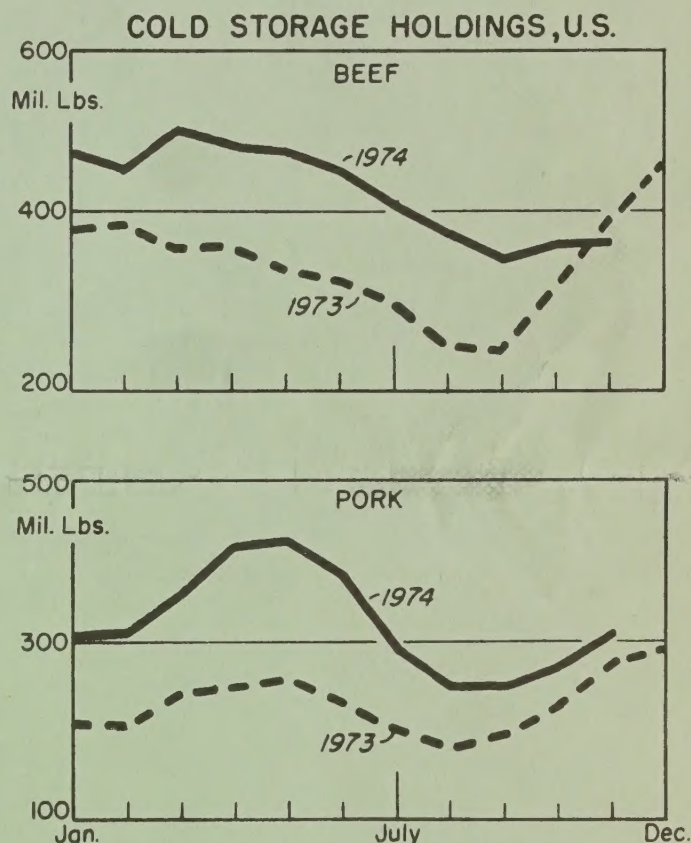
The Nation's cold storage stocks of meat at the end of November were about the same as a year ago. Beef stocks in cold storage at the end of November were down 7 percent

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1972	Nov. 30, 1973	Oct. 31, 1974	Nov. 30, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	340,097	376,287	341,389	348,640	- 7
In cure and cured	11,255	16,298	17,142	17,128	+ 5
Total	351,352	392,585	358,531	365,768	- 7
Pork:					
Frozen	221,483	258,848	255,258	292,332	+ 13
In cooler	20,835	18,321	14,097	15,193	- 17
Total	242,318	277,169	269,355	307,525	+ 11
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	11,894	9,921	12,048	13,454	+ 36
Lamb and mutton, frozen	17,200	14,691	15,134	14,425	- 2
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	61,687	61,623	55,961	52,903	- 14
Other meats	17,519	14,040	11,782	13,092	- 7
Total, all meats	701,970	770,029	722,811	767,167	n. c.

from last year but offset by larger pork cold storage stocks which increased 11 percent.

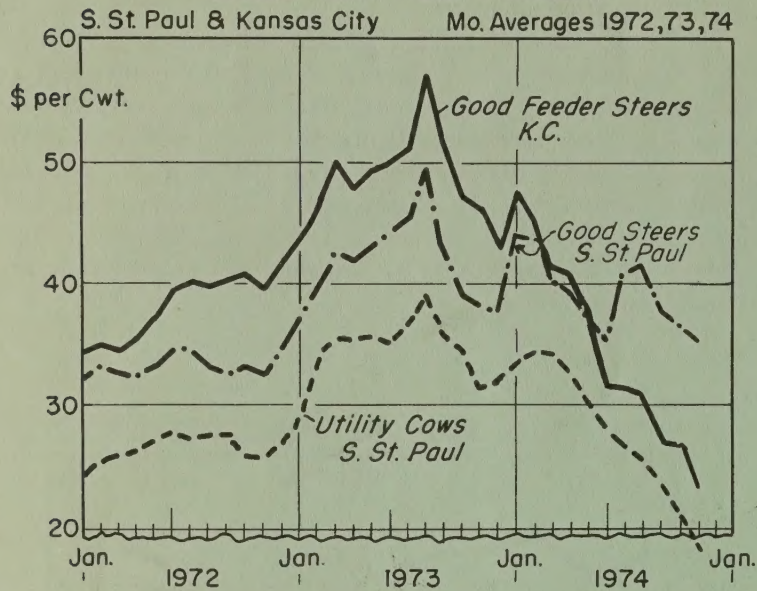
There were 366 million pounds of beef in cold storage on November 30, an increase of 7 million pounds from a month earlier but 27 million pounds less than the previous year. Cold storage supplies of pork on November 30 amounted to nearly 308 million pounds compared with 269 million pounds at the end of October and 277 million pounds on November 30, 1973. Stocks of frozen veal, at about 13½ million pounds on November 30, were over one-third above a year earlier.



BEEF PRICES CONTINUE DOWNWARD SLIDE

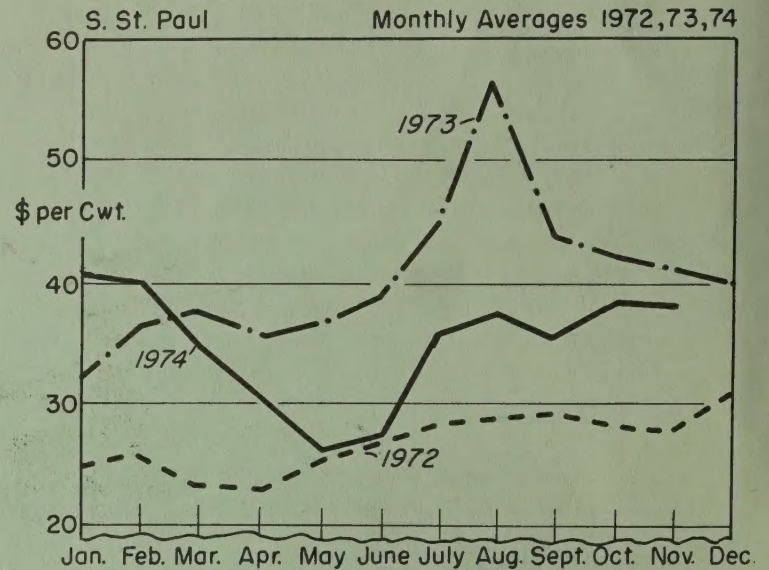
Prices of good grade fed steers at St. Paul and feeder steers at Kansas City continued to decline in November as did utility cow prices at St. Paul. Feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$23.26 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market during November, down \$3.77 from October and only half of the price a year ago. This was the tenth consecutive month of lower prices for feeder steers.

Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$35.22 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market in November, a decline of \$1.62 from the previous month and \$2.91 below last year. Utility cows averaged \$18.05 a hundredweight at St. Paul for November, a drop of \$2.74 from October and \$13.45 under a year earlier.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES**HOG MARKET LOWER**

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$38.21 a hundredweight during November, down 46

cents from a month earlier and \$3.14 under last year. The hog market showed some recovery in the last week of November.

BARROW and GILT PRICES

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